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GROUNDS OF THEISTIC AND CHRISTIAN BELIEF.*

What more can be said even by Prof. Fisher on the well worn themes of apologetical theology which has not already been given out? What is there in this book which may be called the reason of its existence? Does it bring forward new and strong defences, powerful enough to beat back modern assailants or is it simply a re-statement in new forms of that which is somewhat familiar? Necessarily the latter. The author is especially blessed with a power of vigorous and simple expression. Puzzling objections are here clearly stated and as clearly answered. Most books on the Evidences are painfully dry reading. The student of this argument will find his interest and attention excited as well as his mind aroused. Prof. Fisher permits no drowsiness.

The book is valuable, too, because of its comprehensiveness. The first few chapters deal with the philosophical grounds of Theism. The middle chapters contain the biblical argument. The closing ones present the historical and general considerations in favor of Christianity. Few questions can be stated which are not considered directly or indirectly in these pages. The arguments for them and the opposing theories, the possibility and function of miracles, the trustworthiness of the Gospels, the argument from Prophecy, from Christian Doctrine, from Christianity in the world, from its comparison with other religions, Biblical Criticism, the Canon, Christianity and Science, are a few of the topics which are treated. Dr. Fisher is sound, liberal, progressive and yet eminently judicious in his views of Christianity. The clergyman who reads and digests this book will find it full of the best kind of tonic.

TRANSCAUCASIA AND ARARAT.†

In the autumn of 1876, Professor Bryce and a companion started from England for a tour through Russia, the countries of the Caucasus and the Turkish empire. Foremost among the purposes of their journey was the ascent of Ararat. It is of course a question whether the real Ararat is in Armenia as the Biblical statements seem to imply, or according to the Chaldaean legend in the land of Gordyene. Full liberty, at present, is allowed the student to identify it with either mountain. It was the Armenian Ararat which Mr. Bryce succeeded with much difficulty in scaling, being the third who ever accomplished that feat. Little indeed was gained for Biblical study in the expedition. The ark itself still remains to be discovered. The narrative of travel through these little-known lands is very pleasantly told by the author, whose ability in historical investigation makes his political observations and reflections of much value.

* **THE GROUNDS OF THEISTIC AND CHRISTIAN BELIEF.** By Geo. P. Fisher, D. D., LL. D., Professor of Ecclesiastical History in Yale College. One vol., 8x5, pp. xviii., 488. New York: Chas. Scribner's Sons. 1883. Price \$2.50.

† **TRANSCAUCASIA AND ARARAT**, being Notes of a vacation tour in the autumn of 1876. By James Bryce. Pp. 420. London and New York: MacMillan & Co., 1878. Price, \$2.00.